



*"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7*

The state of the heart is of the Lord's concern here, according to St. Paul. Let's consider the contrast that is laid out for us in this verse.

Many of us likely grew up with the King James Version which says "to not give grudgingly or of necessity"—a characterization which might bring up the contrast in this way: what is the difference between a donation and a gift?

Often a donation—especially one which has been asked for over the phone or at the front door unexpectedly—might be given grudgingly out of a sense of guilt or obligation. Let's contrast that with a gift. What is the state of the heart when giving a gift to a loved one? A desire to be pleasing to the receiver of the gift, perhaps even an extra level of planning and preparation for the gift, coming from your love for the recipient.

1-1-1 Dollar for Missions contributions have always been meant to come from the heart of a giver, not a donor. Because ultimately, we know that the receiver is the Giver, and the giver is merely giving back from what has first been received. We know from reading James 1:17.

"Every good and perfect gift comes from above, from the Father of heavenly lights, Who does not change like shifting shadows."